**Sweeping Reforms Suggested by IMF**

2054. SHRI K.M. SAFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IMF has recently suggested sweeping reforms including privatisation of state owned banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) On the basis of discussions at the Board on India, the IMF, on September 22, 1998 had inter-alia, suggested for a stronger macroeconomic stance to help restore low inflation and improve market sentiment. In the financial sector they urged to accelerate implementation of the reforms suggested by Narasimhan Committee and also stressed that far reaching changes in public control and management of state owned banks would be required to facilitate the entry of private capital.

Policy making is the sovereign right of the Government of India and the policy decisions are taken on the basis of our national priorities. In the financial sector the Government is encouraging private sector to open banking companies and allowing Government owned public sector banks to diversify their activities and float issues in capital market to strengthen their capital base.

**Financial Assistance to Govt. Employees in cyclone hit Areas of Orissa**

2055. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any financial assistance to Government employees belonging to the cyclone hit areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would provide financial assistance to their employees hailing from cyclone affected areas of Orissa in the form of grants/advances etc. to rehabilitate their families?